

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 2760

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CU, VE

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR TO CUBA NAMED

REF: CARACAS 12770 OF DECEMBER 31, 1974

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. ON MARCH 11 IT WAS OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED THAT THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT HAD GRANTED AGREEMENT TO ADOLFO TAYLHARDAT AS VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR TO CUBA, AND THAT NORBERTO HERNANDEZ WILL BE THE CUBAN AMBASSADOR TO VENEZUELA.

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2. ADOLFO RAUL TAYLHARDAT SOTILLO, BORN MAY 6, 1934, IN LA VICTORIA, STATE OF ARAGUA, IS A GRADUATE OF THE CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF VENEZUELA IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND ALSO IN LAW. HE ENTERED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN OCTOBER 1955 AND HAS SERVED SUCCESSIVELY AS CHIEF OF THE UNITED NATIONS DIVISION IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, DIRECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND CONFERENCES, ECONOMIC COUNSELOR IN ROME, MINISTER-COUNSELOR IN ATHENS, MINISTER-COUNSELOR (AND CHARGE) IN MOSCOW WHEN RELATIONS BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND THE SOVIET UNION WERE RESUMED IN NOVEMBER 1970 AND AMBASSADOR TO HAITI FROM APRIL 1973 WHEN
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RELATIONS BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND THAT COUNTRY WERE RESUMED. IN

APRIL 1974 HE WAS APPOINTED VENEZUELA'S ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS.

3. TAYLHARDAT WAS A MEMBER OF THE VENEZUELAN DELEGATION TO THE UNGA FOR AT LEAST EIGHT YEARS BEGINNING IN 1959. AT THE UN IN DECEMBER 1965, WHEN THE CUBAN DELEGATE (JUARBE) SHOUTED THAT CUBA DID NOT RECOGNIZE THE EXISTENCE OF A "LATIN AMERICAN GROUP," TAYLHARDAT COOLLY REPLIED, "THE GROUP EXISTS. THE ONLY REASON WHY YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE ITS EXISTENCE IS THAT YOU ARE OUTSIDE THE GROUP BECAUSE THEY SEPARATED YOU FROM IT SINCE YOU DEVOTE YOURSELVES TO EXPORTING ARMS AND CAUSING DISTURBANCES IN OTHER COUNTRIES."

4. TAYLHARDAT IS AN INTELLIGENT, WELL-INFORMED AND LARGELY APOLITICAL PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMAT. HE IS BELIEVED TO BE FRIENDLY TOWARD THE U.S. HE SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH, FRENCH, AND RUSSIAN. MARRIED, WITH TWO CHILDREN.

5. COMMENT: TAYLHARDAT'S APPOINTMENT AS AMBASSADOR TO CUBA, RUMORED FOR MANY WEEKS (REFTEL) HAS BEEN RECEIVED WITH GENERAL SATISFACTION IN CARACAS, AS IT IS WIDELY AGREED HERE THAT THIS SENSITIVE POSITION SHOULD BE FILLED BY A CAPABLE AND EXPERIENCED DIPLOMAT RATHER THAN BY A POLITICAL APPOINTEE. THE LONG INTERVAL BETWEEN AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND CUBA IN DECEMBER 1974 AND THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF TAYLHARDAT'S APPOINTMENT WAS DUE TO NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS AS TO THE SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF THE CUBAN EMBASSY HERE.
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